

Serial No.: 10/508,878
Atty. Docket No.: P70111US0

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

For the purposes of line numbers referred to herein, lines of text as well as blank lines between paragraphs are counted. Accordingly, beginning the numbering with the first line of the text after the title, the third paragraph on page 1, for example, is designated herein as beginning at line 12 of the text as originally filed, the second full paragraph on page 2 begins at line 13 of the text as originally filed, and so on.

On page 1, before line 1, please insert the following headings:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

--The present invention relates to a method for producing an annular element comprising an inner toothing, especially a sliding sleeve ~~according to the genus of patent claim 1 wherein an outlet ring element can be arranged in an extrusion device.~~--

On page 1, line 3, please insert the following heading:

--2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

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On page 1, line 11, please insert the following heading:
--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, please amend the fourth paragraph beginning on line 16, as follows:

--This task is solved by a method according to the present invention with the characteristics according to patent claim 1 for producing an annular element comprising an inner tothing, especially a sliding sleeve, wherein an outlet ring element can be arranged in an extrusion device which includes an annular matrix element with an inner bore hole, a sleeve stamping device which is arranged therein having a first and a second annular sleeve stamping element which can be moved in relation to each other in the inner bore hole, and an inner stamping device having a first and a second inner stamping element and first and second partial regions which are interspaced in the circumferential direction. When the inner stamping device is closed, the partial regions form cavities for producing the inner tothing. The outlet ring element is arranged between the first and second inner stamping elements and is measured in such a way that when closing the sleeve stamping device, material from the outlet ring element flows into the cavities for the formation of the inner tothing.--

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On page 2, line 19, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

On page 3, line 23, insert the following heading and paragraph following thereafter:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.--.

On page 10, after the last line, please insert the following paragraph:

--The invention being thus described, it will be apparent that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be recognized by one

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skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of
the following claims.--.